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(54) Powder proof reclosable lid for container.

(57) A reclosable lid of the type comprising a frame (1) adapted to be sealingly secured to a container tube or sleeve (9), and a sealing lid (2) which is rotatable connected to the frame (1) over one or more hinges (3), and which is formed with a tamper proof means comprising one or more securing pins (11) cooperatively mounted between the lid (2) and the frame (1) and designed and provided for giving a locking engagement such that the lid (2) can only be released from the frame (1) by breaking one or more locking connections (13, 14), and in which each securing pin (11) is connected to the lid by means of a connection (13, 14) which can be broken off and which extends through a bore (15) of the frame and engages, with a locking part (12) thereof, under an edge (16) of the lid frame (1), and in which the securing pin (11) is prevented from being moved when the lid frame (1) is connected to a container tube (9) and whereby the lid (2) is released from the frame by breaking off the securing connection (13, 14) while leaving the securing pin (11) in the frame (1).

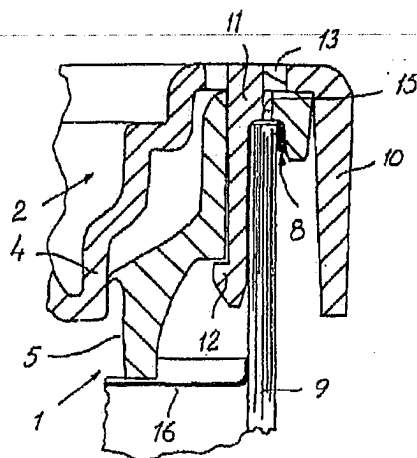


Fig. 4

EP 0 312 513 A2

Description

Powder proof reclosable lid for containers.

The present invention generally relates to a reclosable lid for containers, in particular containers made of cardboard, a cardboard laminate, plastic etc., and adapted for goods intended to be portioned out step by step, and in which the container is designed so that it can be reclosed under powder proof or preferably steam proof conditions, after having been opened for the first time, in order to protect the packed goods against loss of aroma, against oxidization, against entering of moisture etc.

A special demand on the actual reclosable lid is that it should also be tamper proof, so that a customer can verify that the container has never been opened. This is an important demand on many types of containers, for instance containers having a reclosable lid, in which a portioning spoon or a similar means is enclosed between the reclosable lid and some part of the container.

Many different types of reclosable lids of this type are known, for instance from the European patent publication nr. 72.294, which comprise a frame against which a container sleeve is adapted to be secured, and a lid which is hinge connected to said frame. The tamper proof means in said type of reclosable lids is formed as a pin, or a couple of pins, projecting up from the lid frame and extending through corresponding bores of the lid part, and which are upset or weld secured on top of the lid part. The container is opened in that the pins upset at the upper surface of the lid are broken off, whereby the lid can be fold up from the lid frame.

A tamper proof means of the described type is disadvantageous in some respects. For manufacturing reasons the reclosable lid, which is generally made of plastic, is manufactured in its fold up condition with the lid and the lid frame substantially in a common plane. The reclosable lid is then delivered to the customer who is generally the one who makes and/or fills the actual container, whereby the lid frame of the reclosable lid to a container sleeve, which is generally filled from the bottom, and is sealed. The reclosable lid known from the above mentioned European patent publication has to be fold down with the lid pressed down over the lid frame in connection to the manufacture thereof, so that the tamper proof means can be secured by means of welding or any other operation. This procedure involves several additional operation steps, and the closed lid normally is more voluminous than the plainly fold out lid. In case the lid frame has a complete bottom surface and a portioning spoon or a similar means is to be placed in between the frame bottom and the reclosable lid this has to be done before the lid is fold down and the tamper proof means is secured. In this case the customer can not check that the reclosable has the correct spoon and also can not change the type of spoon for different goods.

The invention therefore is intended to solve the problem of providing a powder proof reclosable means having a frame to which a container tube or

sleeve can be secured, and a reclosable lid which is hinge connected to said frame, and in which the lid and the frame are formed with cooperating means for providing a tamper proof means and designed so that the lid can be opened and closed in relation to the frame until the frame has been moved over the container tube or sleeve and has been secured thereto, and in which the reclosable lid including the tamper proof means can be manufactured in one single operation.

Further characteristics of the invention and advantageous thereof will be evident from the following detailed specification in which reference will be made to the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings figure 1 diagrammatically shows a perspective view of a container having a reclosable lid according to the invention and shown with the lid fold up. Figure 2 is a front view of a detail of the reclosable lid according to the invention shown with the lid connected to the frame, and figure 3 is a top view of the same detail. Figure 4 is a vertical cross section through the tamper proof means in a container having a reclosable lid according to the invention, and figure 5 shows, in a similar view, the container after the tamper proof means has been broken up and the lid is opened.

The reclosable lid shown in figure 1 generally comprises a lid frame 1 and a lid plane 2 which is hinge connected to the lid frame over hinges 3, so that the lid plane can be rotated between a fully opened position substantially on level with the lid frame 1 and a closed position in which the lid plane is connected to the lid frame under at least powder proof or preferably steam proof conditions in that a downwardly projecting neck 4 of the lid plane is pressed down in a sealed opening 5 of the lid frame. As usual the lid frame is formed with a thumb grip 6 at the upper edge thereof for facilitating the opening of the container. The thumb grip 6 may have a snap lock hook 7 for engaging a corresponding recess (not shown) of the lid frame 1 for holding the lid plane easily releasably introduced in the frame.

As conventional the lid frame 1 is formed with a downwardly facing channel 8 in which the upper edge of a tube blank 9 is adapted to be introduced and be secured by glueing, welding or any similar operation. The frame 1 thereby is sealingly connected to the tube blank 9.

At any place along the lid panel, for instance adjacent the thumb grip 6, there is a tamper proof means comprising a tear off tongue 10, a securing pin 11 having a barb 12 and several studs 13 which connect the tear off tongue 10 to the securing pin 11 so that tear off tongue can easily be torn off, and several studs 14 which connect the tear off tongue to the lid panel 2. The tear off tongue 10 with the securing pin 11 and the studs 13 and 14 can be made integral in a common piece of material with the remaining parts of the reclosable lid.

The securing pin 11 extends right down from the lid panel 2 and it is formed for cooperation with a

through bore 15 at the upper edge of the frame. The bore is larger in the direction opposing the centre of the container than the thickness of the securing pin and it is at least as large as the width of the securing pin at the barb 12 so that the securing pin can be introduced through the bore 15. The pin 11 is placed so as to engage the inner edge of the bore 15 with the inwardly facing side of the pin 11, and the barb engages under an edge 16 at the bottom side of the frame. The pin is attached to the lid panel by a certain spring action, and when rotating the lid downwards to the frame for the first time the pin 11 will be introduced through the frame bore 15 and the barb 12 thereof will snap into engagement under the frame edge 16, whereby the frame and the lid become mutually interlocked.

The channel 8 is formed with such width that the combined width of the channel 8 and the securing pin 11 corresponds to the width of the material of the tube blank 9, and this means that the pin 11 can not be moved or extracted from the bore 15 when the tube blank is once introduced and secured in the channel 8.

As best shown in figure 3 the upper end of the tear tongue 10 is U-shaped and encloses the upper end of the securing pin 11, and in the illustrated case it keeps said pin by means of five studs 13. At the side of the U-shaped upper end the tear tongue it is secured in a recess of the lid panel by means of two studs 14 on each side.

When manufacturing the reclosable lid the frame, the lid panel, the tear tongue and the securing pin are pressed in an integral even piece of material and it can be delivered to the packer in this state. When time has come to mount the reclosable lid on the container blank the lid part thereof is fold down and is secured to the frame by means of the barb 12 of the securing pin 11 and the frame is mounted on top of the container blank and is secured thereto by means of glue, a weld joint or a similar means. The container blank may eventually already have been closed at this end by means of a sealing foil 16.

The tear tongue 10 with the securing pin 11 provides a tamper proof means acting so that the lid 2 can not be fold up from the frame 1 without breaking the tear tongue and such breaking of the tear tongue is immediately visible. When the container is opened for the first time the tear tongue is bent upwards, whereby both the studs 13 and the studs 14 are broken and the lid is free to become opened. As usual this is made in that the thumb grip is pressed upwards. When reclosing the lid the snap lock hook 7 of the lid and the corresponding bore of the frame makes the lid stick to the frame, however easily openable.

It is obvious that the reclosable lid can be formed with two or more tamper proof means at any chosen places of the container, and that many other modifications and variations may be presented within the scope of the appended claims.

Reference numerals

- 1 lid frame
- 2 lid panel
- 3 hinge

- 4 neck (of 2)
- 5 opening
- 6 thumb grip
- 7 snap lock hook
- 8 channel
- 9 container blank side
- 10 tear tongue
- 11 securing pin
- 12 barb
- 13 stud (against 1)
- 14 stud (against 2)
- 15 bore
- 16 sealing foil

Claims

1. Reclosable lid of the type comprising a frame (1) adapted to be sealingly secured to a container tube or sleeve (9), and a sealing lid (2) which is rotatable connected to the frame (1) over one or more hinges (3), and which is formed with a tamper proof means comprising one or more securing pins (11) cooperatively mounted between the lid (2) and the frame (1) and designed and provided for a locking engagement so that the lid (2) can only be released from the frame (1) by breaking one or more locking connections (13, 14), characterized in that each securing pin (11) is connected to the lid by means of a connection (13, 14) which can be broken and which extends through a bore (15) of the frame and engages, with a locking part (12) thereof, under an edge (16) of the lid frame (1), whereby a breaking of the securing connection (13, 14) releases the lid (2) from the frame (1) while leaving the securing pin (11) in the frame (1).

2. Reclosable lid according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking part of the securing pin (11) is an outwardly from the centre of the container extending barb (12), and in that the bore (15) of the frame (1) for the securing pin is of such size that the barb (12) can move through said bore.

3. Reclosable lid according to claim 2, characterized in that the securing pin (11) is located in relation to the bore (15) so that the leg part thereof engages the inwardly facing edge of the bore (15), whereby the barb (15) engages, in the closed position of the lid, under the bottom edge (16) of the lid frame (1).

4. Reclosable lid according to claim 3, characterized in that a channel (8) of the lid frame (1), in which the upper part of the container is to be introduced and secured has such width, at the area of the tamper proof means, that a container blank which is introduced and secured in the channel makes it impossible to move the securing pin outwardly from the centre of the reclosable lid, whereby the securing pin is constantly secured to the

frame (1) and the container blank sides (9).

5. Reclosable lid according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that securing pin (11) is connected to a tear tongue (10) such that it can be torn off, which tear tongue, in turn, is connected to the lid (2) such that it can be torn off, whereby the lid (2) is released so that it can be rotated up from the frame (1) only when the tear tongue (10) is torn off the

securing pin (11) and the lid (2).

6. Reclosable lid according to claim 5, characterized in that the attachment means between the securing pin (11) and the tear tongue (10) and between the tear tongue (10) and the lid (2), respectively, is formed as studs (13 and 14 resp.) which are broken off when the tear tongue (10) is bent upwards.

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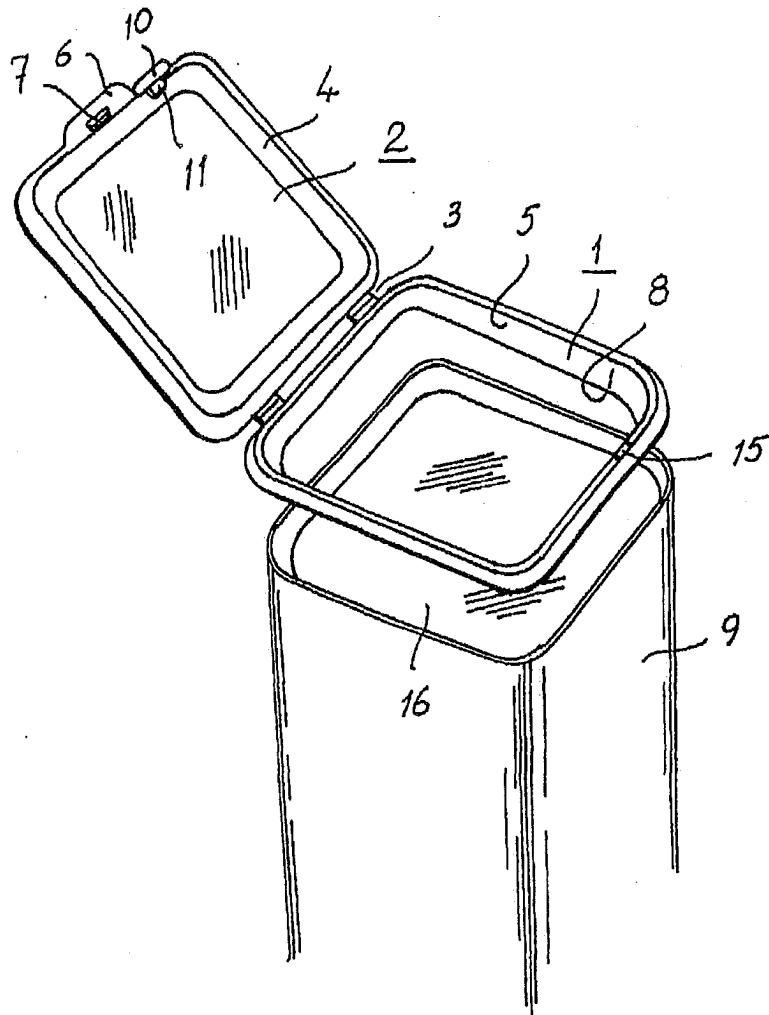


Fig. 1

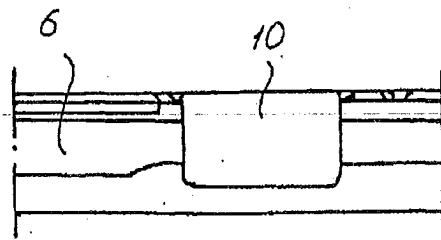


Fig. 2

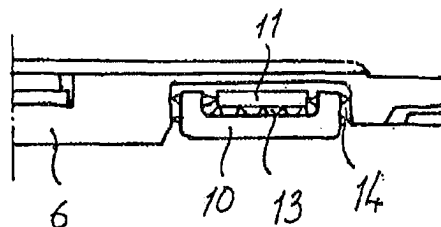


Fig. 3

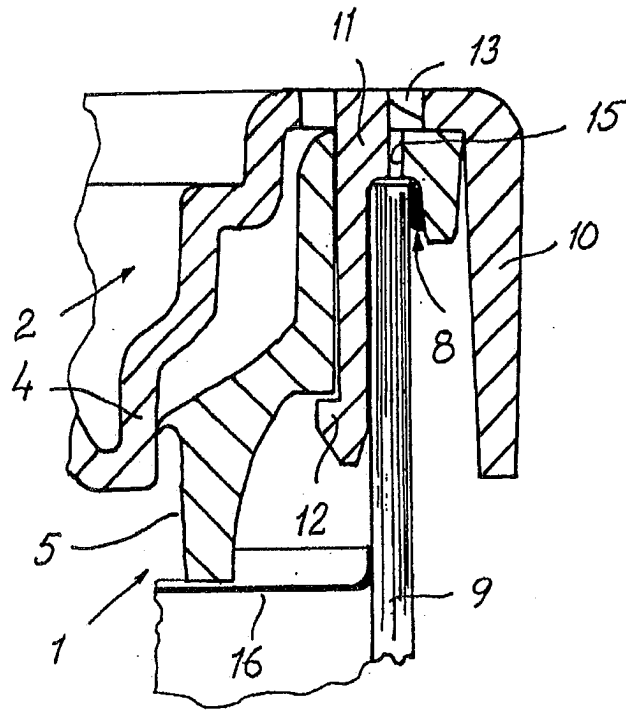


Fig. 4

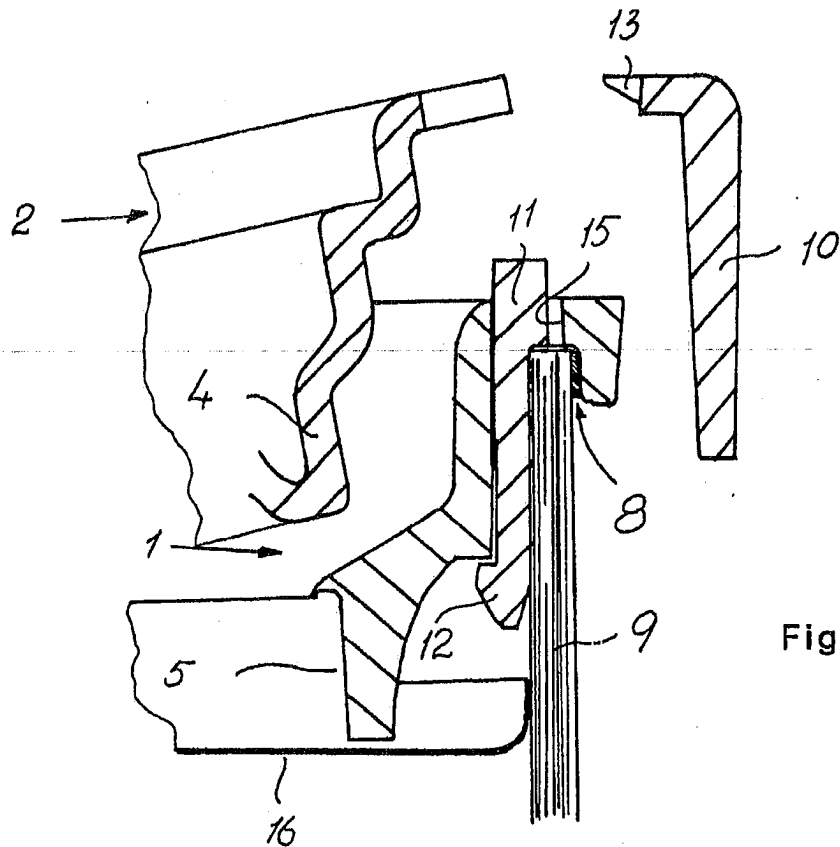


Fig. 5